

PACT ACT CLAIM IN ONE PAGE

PACT ACT AND TOXIC EXPOSURE

Start with the exact diagnosis and service history. Then determine whether a presumption applies or the claim needs direct toxic-exposure proof.

01 Four questions that control the route

- 01

WHAT IS THE DIAGNOSIS?
Exposure or symptoms alone are not the disability. Use the exact diagnosed condition.
- 02

WHERE AND WHEN DID YOU SERVE?
Match locations and dates to the controlling presumption or document the actual exposure history.
- 03

IS THE CONDITION LISTED?
Confirm that the diagnosis fits the applicable presumptive disease category.
- 04

WHAT IS THE CLAIM HISTORY?
Choose an original claim, Supplemental Claim, or other review path that fits any prior decision.

02 Presumptive and direct routes

PRESUMPTIVE

Qualifying service plus a listed condition can replace the usual need to prove a medical nexus.

DIRECT

A nonlisted condition may still be service connected with evidence of exposure and a reasoned medical relationship.

SECONDARY

A service-connected disability or its treatment may cause or aggravate another diagnosed condition.

PRIOR DENIAL

A new presumption or relevant evidence may support a Supplemental Claim. Effective-date rules still matter.

03 Build one connected evidence record

- 1

DIAGNOSIS RECORDS
Use pathology, imaging, specialist notes, or other records that identify the exact condition.
- 2

SERVICE RECORDS
Document qualifying dates, locations, duties, deployments, military occupational specialty, and units.
- 3

EXPOSURE EVIDENCE
Include deployment records, individual longitudinal exposure records, statements, and other relevant records.
- 4

TERA DEVELOPMENT
Confirm whether VA considered toxic exposure risk activity and whether an examination or opinion was required.
- 5

PRIOR DECISIONS
Review the stated denial reason, evidence list, favorable findings, and effective-date implications.

THE RECORD SHOULD EXPLAIN

Why these facts support this veteran's claim

- What evidence was reviewed
- When the condition and limitations began
- Which legal or medical pathway applies
- How competing explanations were addressed

A toxic exposure screening is health care, not a disability claim. A TERA examination is not automatic in every case, and a presumption does not determine the rating percentage.

04 Common toxic-exposure frameworks

BURN PITS

Certain cancers and respiratory illnesses tied to qualifying service locations and periods.

AGENT ORANGE

Listed diseases and qualifying locations, including PACT Act expansions.

CAMP LEJEUNE

Specified diseases tied to qualifying service at Camp Lejeune.

RADIATION

Separate statutory, regulatory, and direct-proof pathways may apply.

05 Before you file

- ✓

Exact diagnosis confirmed
- ✓

Applicable presumption checked
- ✓

Exposure records requested
- ✓

Prior denial path selected correctly
- ✓

Service dates and locations verified
- ✓

Direct theory preserved if needed
- ✓

TERA development reviewed
- ✓

Current severity evidence included